

THE FINISH LINE

Les Visits New Cedar Falls Drag Strip

by Les Burianek

It was "All The Way" for Red Droste and his associates at the new drag strip. If you haven't traveled the short trip up to Cedar Falls for a Sunday of drag racing you're missing something.

Sunday at the Neita strip was perfect, the weather was cool and excellent for the high powered beasts. One hundred eighty eight cars in all classes screamed down the new strip in new record times. The raceway was built at the cost of \$100,000.00 plus. It has the latest and finest equipment that is available today. The 8000 spectators moved about the well planned operation or were seated in the well placed stands that run along the West Side of the strip and gives the spectators an excellent view from all points.

We moved about the acres visiting with many Cedar Rapids contestants; watched Don and Jim Pospishil with their co-owner and driver Dennis Johnson and Jim Elliot on a gear change. The beautiful car, a streamliner type, powered by a big Studebaker V-8 did very well for the first time out. Dick Neil from C.R. and his crew slaved over their gleaming white '55 Chevrolet B gasser that tried to fly off the line every time out and it really did as the fellows came home later with a 2 Ft. trophy. Driver, owner Tom Otto with his pit crew of Tom Frady, Randy Schwieger, Tim Cooney of C.R. and Kieth Custer of Cedar Falls were found working over the runner 322 that rested in the pits in its glowing red paint job. What ever that crew did was rewarding as the little chopped up roadster ended high in the competition.

We stopped to look over a beautiful A competition sling shot which was parked along the white pit wall only to find it was proudly owned by C.R. boys Leon Evans, Ted Hidering and Bob Havlicek with Leon doing the driving. The long low red fire bomb was pushed out for a practice run down the new asphalt. Evans screamed off the line with his tires streaming smoke down the strip at the quarter mile marker he popped out the shoot and stopped in the half mile slow down strip. The announcer soon called out the time 141.28 mph in 10:38 seconds for the quarter mile a really hot run. Cont. next page

gasser to take the trophy for his class.

8. Vince Fiala also was met at the end of the run by two things of beauty.

9. At the end of the line for Dick Neal, waiting was a pretty girl and a trophy.

10. Driver Dennis Kolda at the wheel of the XL.

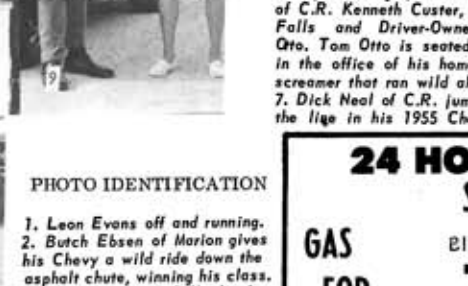
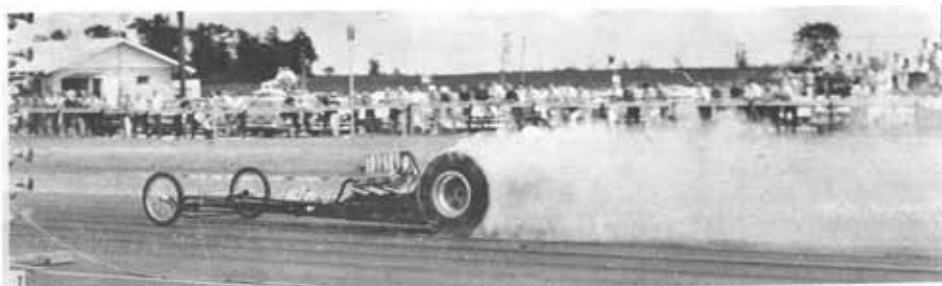


PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

1. Leon Evans off and running.
2. Butch Ebsen of Marion gives his Chevy a wild ride down the asphalt chute, winning his class.
3. Left to right, Bob Havlicek, Ted Hidering and Jim Taylor of Cedar Rapids and Dave Boddicker of Alburnett and driver-owner, Vince Fiala on the line with the Stebor Ply-

mouth lightweight just before the battle.

4. Jim Pospishil, Don Pospishil, Dennis Johnson, Jim Elliot and Driver Dennis Kolda of Cedar Rapids, proudly group around the XL streamliner that they have just completed, powering it with a big-bod Studebaker V-8.

5. Left to right, Bob Havlicek, Ted Hidering and driver Leon Evans of C.R. are seen back in the pits after a 141.28 mph practice run in their A competition slingshot.

6. Left to right, Tom Frady, Randy Schwieger, Tim Cooney of C.R. Kenneth Custer, Cedar Falls and Driver-Owner Tom Otto. Tom Otto is seated deep in the office of his home-built screamer that ran wild all day.

7. Dick Neal of C.R. jumps off the line in his 1955 Chevy B

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